

an act of aggression, and it seems that a definition could easily complicate, delay or circumscribe action by the Security Council. The plenary debate unfortunately consisted mostly of a citation and rebuttal of alleged instances of aggression, rather than of efforts to discuss the problem.

Partly for these reasons and partly because the subject is closely connected with the work of the Special Committee on Friendly Relations, the item was referred to the Sixth (Legal) Committee for consideration in the light of the plenary debate.

### **First Committee**

The First Committee continued debate on the "Maltese item" on reservation of the sea-bed for peaceful uses, concluding by adopting, virtually unanimously, a resolution co-sponsored by Canada establishing an *ad hoc* committee with broad terms of reference to study the question. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of the governments of member states and "render all appropriate assistance" to the committee.

The First Committee also concluded debate and adopted a resolution on an item inscribed by the Soviet Union proposing the "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". This convention would, it is claimed, reduce the high level of international tension which results from the accumulation of large stocks of nuclear weapons. This argument, however, recognizes only one side of the question, since it is equally, if not more, cogent to argue that high levels of tension lead to large accumulations of weapons. In any case, past experience with similar agreements scarcely creates confidence in their efficacy. Similarly, genuine progress in disarmament is more likely to result from a case-by-case approach — denuclearization of Antarctica, test-ban treaty, UPT, Outer Space Treaty — than from wholesale outlawing of the use of nuclear arms, which would not, in fact, reduce or eliminate the stockpiles of such weapons.

For these reasons, Canada, though in sympathy with the aim of ending the possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction in time of war, believes that specific and practical measures, such as UN peacekeeping operations and disarmament negotiations, are the most effective method of reducing international tensions. Declaratory measures, like the convention discussed above, would create the illusion but not the substance of genuine peace and security.

### **Special Political Committee**

In November, the Special Political Committee considered the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the second-last item on its